

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN TOUCH

FEBRUARY 2020

FROM PASTOR CRAIG

"Scripture is the manger in which we find the Christ child."

-Martin Luther

We recently attended the memorial service for Carmin's Aunt Norma. Funerals where I'm not the presider are rare opportunities for me to hear the good news preached by someone else. It's especially good if the preacher "brings it." Such was the case of the sermon at Aunt Norma's memorial. The pastor based his sermon on things that she had tucked into her bible: book marks, a tract on the Lutheran Faith she was given years ago, and an adult Sunday school hand out from the Search Bible Series (another Lutheran classic). All of this lead to the preacher's point and question, "How do Lutherans read the Bible?" We live in a culture where Bible verses get thrown out all over the place, usually to prove some point of view. What does this have to do with a funeral? Read on.

Though I do not have the exact quote, the preacher lifted up parts of the "Lutheran Faith" tract tucked in Norma's Bible. It said (my paraphrase) that the most important thing to read in Scripture is "that which conveys or brings Christ to you." What speaks to you of Christ, his life, death, and resurrection? What is a word of grace, forgiveness, and life? This is what is important. There are 66 books in the Bible, and all are important, but not all are most important.

Martin Luther often spoke of scripture in terms of "Law and Gospel." The Law, "Thou shall/shalt not," is what condemns us of sin (i.e. broken relationship with God). The Gospel is what gives the promise of salvation: forgiveness and life. Such are words like, "your sins are forgiven" or "go in peace, your faith has made you well."

Whether it's social media (memes are the worst) or quoted Bible verses by well-intended people, much of what is said is law, not much gospel, used to condemn, not to give life. The gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the "Good News" of Jesus Christ, there's that the word "gospel" which means, good news. Yet what we get a lot of is not good news, but judgment. This brings me to the Luther quote above.

We are in the season of Epiphany, the time between Christmas and Lent. It is a time when Jesus, the Beloved, is revealed to us before we enter the time of Lent and focus on Christ suffering and passion. We remember the Christmas story, the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. Lying in that manger is God incarnate, as Luther distinguished, the "living Word."

All of Scripture is good for teaching, but let us look to "that which conveys Christ" to you and your neighbor. The law condemns, the gospel gives life.

Pastor Craig

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Christ Lutheran: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9am to Noon
Washington Lutheran: Tuesday, 2:30-4:20pm; Friday, 9am to Noon

THANK YOU NOTES!

To My Christ Lutheran Family:

Thanks for all of the Birthday cards and wishes! It was so thoughtful of each of you to send your greetings. They really helped make my 89th more special. Also, thank you for the thoughts and prayers during my recent hospitalization. So appreciated.

Heidi Janssen

AND

Mike and Kim Conrad extend their thanks to Christ Lutheran Church for the generous Christmas gift. It is very much appreciated.

AND

Our thanks, again, to the Conrads for their many years of loyal service and care for our Church building.



MICK MCBRIDE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Everybody,

I am writing this the day after our first blizzard of the year, welcome to 2020.

By the time you read this we will have held the Annual Report and Congregational Report Meeting where hopefully it was made apparent that we have a few challenges for this coming year.

1. Share and reinforce Christ Lutheran's outreach ministries in our corner of the world
2. Maintenance of our physical property

I will be willing to listen to anyone's questions, concerns or suggestions on either of these two issues, they are both important and need attention for us to continue to thrive as a congregation.

(You will get used to seeing this closing)

Please remember It is always a great form of giving to offer a listening ear or a helping hand to those in our lives who are struggling physically, mentally, or emotionally. Please be prayerful in considering giving of yourself, you are a great gift.

See you Sunday.

Mick

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

QUILTING: Meets every Tuesday at 1:00PM. Come join the fellowship.

LADIES NIGHT OUT : Wednesday, February 26, 5PM at Village Inn.

LOOKING AHEAD . . . OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

- ⇒ ASH WEDNESDAY is February 26. Worship with Holy Communion will be at Christ Lutheran Church at 7:00PM (No Confirmation Class). Fellowship will follow the service.
- ⇒ MIDWEEK SERVICES as follows:
 - March 4 at Washington Lutheran Church at 7PM. Confirmation at 6:15
 - March 11 at Christ Lutheran Church at 7PM. No Confirmation Class.
 - March 18 at Washington Lutheran Church at 7PM. Confirmation at 6:15
 - March 25 at Christ Lutheran Church at 7PM. No Confirmation Class
 - April 1 at Washington Lutheran Church at 7PM. Confirmation at 6:15 (No Fooling!)
- ⇒ PALM SUNDAY worship with Holy Communion is April 5, 9AM
 - April 9, MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship w/Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran at 7PM
 - April 10, GOOD FRIDAY Worship at Washington Lutheran Church at 7PM
- ⇒ EASTER SUNDAY Breakfast at 7:30AM, WORSHIP w/Holy Communion, 8:30AM

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- ◆ **2020 SIGN UP SHEETS** are in the hallway. There are many openings to be filled. Please consider volunteering to Read, Usher or supply Flowers
 - ◆ **CHRIST IN OUR HOME** is available in the Fellowship Hall
 - ◆ **MAILBOXES / BULLETIN BOARDS** Please check these regularly for information
 - ◆ **DIRECTORY UPDATES** If you have a change of information, please let us know so that it may be updated
 - ◆ **LORD'S CUPBOARD** is always in need of pantry items. Please give generously!

LAY MINISTRY COUNCIL MINUTES

Christ Lutheran Church Lay Ministry Council met on January 13, 2020.

Those present were: Pres Mick McBride, Brenda Savery, Sue Kraft, Liz Lombard, Jan Bowers & Pastor Miller.

MOTION carried to approve the Minutes of the Dec 9, 2019 Lay Ministry Council Meeting (Sue, Liz)

Pastor's Report:

- Pastoral Care Visitations
- 2019 vacation: 19 total : 15 days and 4 Sundays, Dec 26-31 Thanks to Annette Howard, guest preacher and Mick McBride for leading the service
- 2020 vacation: Florida January 23-30, 1/26 Eric Howard will be preaching
- Advent Services concluded 12/18. Christmas Eve Service 5pm with Communion and candles

MOTION carried to approve Financial Secretary/Treasurer Reports for Dec 2019 (Brenda, Jan)

Other Reports

- Feed My Starving Children
- Special Collection and FD MobilePack Dec 7
- Festive Christmas Sweater and Cookie Exchange 12/22, thanks to Janet McBride!!
- Joint Exec Council Meeting with Washington Lutheran 12/10
- Church Custodial Position was accepted by Sheila Tagg, begins 1/22

Ongoing Business

- Annual Report Congregational Meeting – Jan 26th
- Estimates for Parsonage siding are coming in.


New Business

- Annual Palm Sunday Potato Bake
- Meal for the Beacon

Next meeting will be February 10th at 7:00 pm.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Brenda Savery
LMC Secretary

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALTAR GUILD Todd & Joyce McCubbin	USHERS 2/2 OPEN 2/9 OPEN 2/16 OPEN 2/23 OPEN	READERS 2/2 Mick McBride 2/9 OPEN 2/16 OPEN 2/23 OPEN	FLOWERS 2/2 2/9 2/16 Mick & Janet McBride for Kate's Birthday 2/23			1
2 9am Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee: Church Council	3 5pm Dinner at the Beacon of Hope	4 10:30am Clergy Text Study 1pm Quilting 6pm Yoga	5 6:30pm Confirmation at WLC	6	7	8
9 9am Worship Benevolence Sunday Coffee:	10 7pm Lay Ministry Council Meeting	11 10:30am Clergy Text Study 1pm Quilting 6pm Yoga	12 6:30pm Confirmation at WLC	13 Fort Dodge Forum	14 	15
16 9am Worship w/ Holy Communion Gospel Son Sunday Coffee: Altar Guild	17	18 10:30am Clergy Text Study 1pm Quilting 6pm Yoga	19 6:30pm Confirmation at WLC	20	21	22
23 9am Worship Coffee:	24	25 10:30am Clergy Text Study 1pm Quilting 6pm Yoga	26 Ash Wednesday 5pm Ladies Night Out at Vil- lage Inn 7pm Ash Wed Service at CLC	27	28	29 It's Leap Year!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Craig D. Miller, Pastor
Mick McBride, Council President

In Our Prayers

Kate McBride (home)
Heidi Janssen (home)
Bonnie Byro (FD Health & Rehab)
Luella Jensen (home)
Alan Johnson (home)
Alvin Dencklau (home)
Eleanor Kullberg (Villa Care)
Jeff Johnson (son of Russ & Evelyn)
Lydia Becker (home)
Eileen Samuelson (home)
Richard Zahrobky (home)

OCCASIONS TO CELEBRATE

February Birthdays

2/1 Corbin Bloom
2/1 Janice Fallacara
2/11 Amy Tilton
2/16 Joyce McCubbin
2/18 Beverly Ashton
2/18 Bonnie Byro
2/20 Todd McCubbin
2/22 Bob Fallacara
2/23 Timothy Guderian

February Anniversaries

2/5 Aaron & Lisa Peterson (2000)

“A friendly, caring church extending the love of Jesus to all.”